

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
June 4, 2009; 12:00-2:00 pm  
BHRC - 850 E. Foothill Blvd, Auditorium  
Rialto, CA 92376

**Commissioners present:**

Gabriel Gonzales, Bill Swift, David Ford, Michael Hill, Christopher Massa, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Tanya Perry, Jane Godager, Tom Rivera, May Farr, Veatrice Jews, and Talli Simmons on behalf of Supervisor Neil Derry.

**Excused Absence:**

Jane Mercer

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; Teri Posey, Mental Health Court; Hope Anderson, MHS Success First; Whikesha Vann, EMQ Families First; Rian Marquez, Family Service Association; Bob Sudol, André Bossieux, Dennis Terrones, Marilyn Ashton, Michael Aragon, Mariann Ruffolo, Maribel Gutierrez, Mark Thomas, Sonia Rubio, Paula Rutten, Ron Smith, Andy Gruchy, Bobbie Luna, Richard Louis, Lynn Neuenswander, Dorie Glenn, David Denkers, Gary Atkins, Teri Self, Charlene Daniels, and Lynn VanGilder, DBH.

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Chairperson David Ford called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed.

The agenda for this meeting was approved and the minutes of May 7, 2009 were adopted as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments provided.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Commissioner Ford thanked everyone for attending in spite of their busy schedules. The Commission has a full agenda today. He announced the California Association of Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions (CALMHB/C) Training Conference scheduled for June 19-20 in San Jose.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Tom Rivera thanked Maribel Gutierrez for inviting him to the Latino Cultural Competency Meeting this morning. Few people were in attendance and the topic turned to "budget issues".

Commissioner Veatrice Jews stated that she has met with a group of school district lawyers who are interested in learning more about truancy problems and student mental health issues. They

are familiar with Success First and would also like to gain more knowledge of the programs provided by the County.

Commissioner Tanya Perry stated that members of the Big Bear community are providing support to one another as they overcome several recent tragic incidents.

Commissioner Bill Swift will meet with Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) staff to help him promote their services in the High Desert.

Commissioner Chris Massa looks forward to the Third District Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> in Redlands.

Commissioner May Farr stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening with the Stars event on May 27 at the Hilton was an outstanding event! She also attended the Criminal Justice Mental Health Consensus meeting on May 28; there were 3 Federal Parole Officers in attendance. The quarterly consumer meeting was attended by 80-90 participants. Ms. Farr will attend the CALMHB/C meeting in San Jose on June 19-20.

Commissioner Gabriel Gonzales thanked Mr. and Mrs. Gary Atkins for arranging the sponsorship of Victor Valley Clubhouse table of ten at the Evening with the Stars event through Mrs. Atkin's employer. Members of the Clubhouse visited the Consumer Art Exhibit at the Government Center on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and recently held a wellness and recovery barbeque. They are also in the process of revising their consumer by-laws. Included in your binder is the second edition of the Victor Valley Clubhouse Newsletter.

Commissioner Susan McGee-Stehsel thanked CCRT for responding to her request for one of her Cal State students. Many students are feeling stressed during this time. Cal State campus is sponsoring wellness activities for their STARS program (designed for persons with physical and mental disabilities). She wants to work with the county to ensure that student volunteer process is more helpful and less stressful. She will also attend the CALMHB/C Training in San Jose on May 19-20.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Rawland commended the leadership of Lynn Neuenswander and the hard work of her staff in organizing a very successful Evening with the Stars event, with an approximately 360 attendees.

Director Rawland invited everyone to attend the DBH State of the Department event scheduled for June 29 from 2:00-5:00 pm at the BHRC Auditorium. It is our annual "family reunion" including our theme song, "We are Family"! This event provides DBH divisions to showcase their achievements during the fiscal year.

The California Mental Health Director's Association (CMHDA) will be sponsoring a joint meeting including NAMI Affiliates, MHSA Coordinators and Mental Health Directors on June 12 in Orange County. Director Rawland, Lisa McGinnis and the NAMI Affiliates in the County of San Bernardino will be in attendance.

The Integrated Healthcare Project will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on June 9 for approval.

The Consumer Art Exhibit on display at the Government Center the entire month of June is getting statewide attention. Other counties are coming on board by developing calendars.

The CCRT program has demonstrated a major impact on keeping people out of the hospital. Director Rawland commended Andy Gruchy and staff for their hard work. He referred to CCRT as the DBH “fire department” which provides first response mental health first aid. The Board of Supervisors are very pleased with CCRT’s performance. Andy stated that he has wonderful, dedicated staff, that are willing to be flexible.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: FY 09-10 Budget Overview**

Director Rawland stated that the County of San Bernardino has done very well living within their means. Despite these efforts the County Administrative Office is reporting a \$90-\$149 million shortfall for FY 09-10. Highlights of the presentation included:

- DBH’s FY 09-10 balanced budget submitted to the CAO on 4/6/09 for Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Services. Actions were taken to reduce the submitted budget by \$30 million.
- DBH’s Mental Health funding: The largest portion coming from MHSA at 36%, followed by Realignment at 25%.
- California Mental Health Director’s Association (CMHDA) State’s Mental Health Funding Overview from FY 2003/04 through FY 2012/13
- DBH’s Alcohol and Drug appropriations and revenue
- Counties additional reductions that need to be made per the Governor’s May Revisions
  - ✓ DBH Mental Health Services additional reductions: \$13 million
  - ✓ DBH Alcohol and Drug Services additional reductions: \$13 million

Chairperson David Ford urged everyone to write their State Legislators to express disapproval.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Review MHSA Capital Facilities Project Proposal: Dennis Terrones, Program Specialist, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the One Stop TAY Center/Crisis Residential Program relocation and renovation to 780 E. Gilbert St., Building H, San Bernardino. Tentative project completion date April, 2011. The Mental Health Commission moved to submit the Proposal to the State.
- Review MHSA Technology Needs Proposal: Michael Day, Business Application Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining major steps to modernize and transform our current information system to provide:
  - ✓ Technological support for consumer, family empowerment
  - ✓ Electronic Health Records
  - ✓ SharePoint for interagency Integrated Healthcare Care

Director Rawland stated that DBH has a 5 year timeline for completion of this project to ensure that new systems will not jeopardize billing during these critical fiscal times. He appreciates Michael’s leadership on this project. The Mental Health Commission moved to submit the Proposal to the State.

- Review and approve Agreement with DMH for State Psychiatric Inpatient Hospital Beds. Ralph Ortiz, Deputy Director stated that this is an annual agreement presented to the Commission to purchase adult State beds, mostly at the Metropolitan State Hospital (highest

level of care). Right now we are at 12 beds. After review of the item, the Mental Health Commission moved to approve the agreement.

### **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

No outside agency reports provided.

Director Rawland invited the Commission to attend a meeting with the Association of Community Based Organization (ACBO) Executive Team tomorrow to discuss current budget issues.

### **DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC) REPORTS**

**District 1:** The DAC meeting is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at the Victorville Clubhouse, 12625 Hesperia Rd., Victorville.

**District 2 & 4:** Commissioner May Farr announced they are receiving increased participation by consumer and family members. The next DAC is scheduled for 6/24 from 1:00-3:00 pm at South Coast Children's Services.

**District 3:** Commissioners Christopher Massa and Tom Rivera announced the last DAC in Redlands included 10 participants. The June 3<sup>rd</sup> DAC had no outside participation.

**District 5:** The DAC of May 21 was held at TEAM House with an attendance of 12-15 consumers. Most needs discussed were in regards to medical, dental care and alternate resources.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1.55 p.m.

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*David Ford*  
Chairperson

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Commission